

Cloudy tonight and Friday, probably rain Friday; fresh westerly winds.

The Evening Times

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For Washington People.

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GREAT CONFLAGRATION RAGING IN ATLANTIC CITY

Entire Destruction of
the Resort Threat-
ened.

THE LOSS IS ALREADY IMMENSE

Seven Hotels and Dozens
of Other Buildings
in Ashes.

THE PEOPLE PANIC-STRICKEN

Hundreds of Them Flee From Homes and
Many Take Trains Out of the City.
No Casualties Reported Up to Two
o'clock.

ATLANTIC CITY, April 3.—A fire which
broke out at 10:15 this morning in the
Windsor Hotel here has already con-
sumed seven hotels, the Academy of
Music, and dozens of other structures, in-
volving a loss of \$2,500,000, and at 2
o'clock is still raging, menacing the en-
tire town with destruction.

Two hotels, the Windsor and the Luray,
were the first to give the alarm.

The Berkeley and the Stratford caught
soon afterward.

All the houses in town were thronged
with the usual visitors of Easter week,
and it became necessary at once to clear
every building in the vicinity of the burn-
ing hotels.

It was said at noon that all guests at
the Windsor and the Luray, where the
fire started, had escaped without injury.

There was a high wind blowing, and
while its direction was fortunately off
shore, it yet served to intensify the blaze
wherever it started.

The firemen, seeing that it would be im-
possible to control the flames in case of a
slight shifting of the wind, sent an urgent
call for outside assistance.

The site of the Hotel Windsor and the
Luray is in the heart of the beach hotel
section of the town. Close at hand are
both the Casino and the long ocean piers,
while all but the newest of the best-
known hotels are within a stone's throw
of the place.

Behind the Luray and Windsor, from
the boardwalk to Pacific Avenue, stretch
long blocks with houses and hotels, all of
wood, crowded almost wall to wall.

Guests Ordered Out.

The hotels of Kentucky Avenue were in
the greatest danger at the start, and their
guests and tenants were ordered out.
Along Illinois and other avenues leading

LIST OF HOTELS WHICH HAVE BEEN ALREADY DESTROYED

Up to 2 o'clock the following hotels had been destroyed, in
addition to the Academy of Music and Young's Pier:
Luray, Carleton, Windsor, Stickney, Bryn Mawr, Stratford,
and Berkeley. The fire was thought to be under control.
No loss of life has been reported, but a number of people
were imprisoned by the flames at the end of Young's Pier,
whence they escaped in boats.

inland from the board walk, all persons
were warned to be prepared to leave.

Excitement ran high in the city. Many
of the small wooden shops on the walk
carry large stocks of valuable goods, and
the "shopping district," for the hotel
population at least, extends directly north
from the scene of the fire.

Flames Spread Rapidly.

In spite of the wind blowing toward the
ocean, the flames spread with remark-
able rapidity, and by 1 o'clock the whole
beach front, from Diligat Avenue up, had
met destruction, and the wild, uncontroll-
able flames continued to spread constan-
tly, driving back the firemen at every point.

The boardwalk then caught fire from
a number of burning stores that front it.
Guests in the hotels in the vicinity of
the three blocks where the fire raged be-
came almost panic-stricken. Gathering up
their valuables, thousands rushed to the
beach to watch the fire spectacle. When
it became apparent that the fire was not
under control, a great many persons took
trains for out of town.

The greatest excitement prevailed
among the natives and property holders.

Academy of Music Burned.

The Academy of Music caught next and
was quickly destroyed.

The fire then spread to both sides of
New York Avenue.

Young's pier pier was next doomed.
Up to 1 o'clock no casualties had been
reported. There was a rumor that several
firemen were seriously burned at the
Luray, but this lacked confirmation.

On the boardwalk, below the scene of
the fire, people fell to lugging trunks and
goods, and all over the city people began
to leave their homes, fearing that the
whole resort is threatened with destruc-
tion.

Depends on Wind.

Where the blaze will stop depends
mainly whether the winds shift or not.
Should it blow with equal velocity south-
ward it would doubtless destroy all the
beach front houses as far as Chelsea. The
Traymore, the Brighton, the Dennis, and
the new hotel, Marlborough House (fire-
proof), are neighbors of the blazing hot-
els on the south.

Northward, and even more compactly
built, is a great network of frame hotels
and boardwalk shops that extends in at-

most unbroken line as far as the Royal
Palace Hotel, not far below the inlet.

Danger in Sea Breeze.

Were the wind to shift to a sea breeze
the heart of the city would be consumed
by flames. In all this "City of the Sea"
there are but few buildings that can with-
stand fire. Nowhere is there more fertile
ground for flying sparks to grow upon.

Thus the only hope of the fire-fighters
keeping the flames within their present
bounds is in the wind continuing to blow
seaward.

Many narrow escapes of hotel guests
were reported. These are often invalids
who come here to recuperate, and it was
feared that some, unable to help them-
selves, might have been left helpless in
the general excitement. So far as was
reported no one was missing and none
were seriously injured.

The Burned Hotels.

The hotels named have constituted the
center of the oldest established portion
of the "City by the Sea." Washingtonians
in numbers have made the Luray their
headquarters here during summer vaca-
tion trips for many seasons, especially
since its renovation, enlargement and ex-
tension to the boardwalk five years ago.

The Luray and Carleton, to the south
of the Luray, have also been transformed
in recent years, the former's beach cafe
and its Oriental parlors having been be-
tween the noteworthy sights of the re-
sort.

The Traymore, across the street from
the Windsor, and which escaped serious
damage, is the hotel made famous more
than a decade ago by its removal intact
one hundred feet back from the beach.
The sea had cut away the former beach
to such an extent as to threaten the
building's safety from winter storms. Ac-
cordingly a wrecking company was con-
tracted with to move the huge building
inland to a safe position. By the use
of a most comprehensive system of rollers
and slides, and the employment of
multiple block and tackle connections
with steam locomotives running on spe-
cially constructed tracks, the hotel was
successfully relocated out of danger's
way. This method was afterward suc-
cessfully applied at Manhattan Beach,
New York.

Other nearby hotels are the Brighton
and the Garden, but these are at a suf-
ficient distance to escape harm. Many of
the "cottage hotels," of which there are
hundreds in the menaced district, had
narrow escapes from falling a prey to the
flames.

WITTON'S VERSION OF THE MURDER OF BOERS

Convicted Australian Officer
Talks of the Affair.

KEPT WITHIN USAGES OF WAR

Man Who Was Shot Was First Tried by
Drumhead Court-Martial and Con-
victed of Murder—Witton Confident of
a Revision of His Sentence.

LONDON, April 3.—A despatch to the
Central News from Southampton says
Lieutenant Witton, an Australian officer,
of the Bush Veldt Carbineers, who was
found guilty of participating in the kill-
ing of Boer prisoners, and sentenced to
imprisonment for life, arrived there to-
day on the transport Canada from South
Africa. He was handcuffed and closely
guarded.

Lieutenant Witton's story of the execu-
tion of Boers, as told by him to a pas-
senger on the boat, differs in many
particulars from the version printed this
morning, which was to the effect that
the unarmed Boers were executed and
their baggage rifled for \$20,000, which
was said they had in their possession.

Witton says one of their fellow-officers
of the name of Hunt had been murdered
by Boers. Later on the Australians cap-
tured a party of Boers, one of whom was
wearing Hunt's uniform.

This man was tried by drumhead court-
martial and shot. The Australians believed
the sentence a just one, and that they were entitled to
carry it out.

Lieutenant Witton is in a cheerful
mood, and is hopeful of a revision of his
sentence by the war office authorities.

UNION STATION BILL FAVORABLY REPORTED

Senate District Committee
Approves the Measure.

Mr. McMillan Says Station Has
Been Computed With View to
Smallest Property Damages.

The union railway station bill, for the
District, this morning by Mr. McMillan,
chairman of the Senate District Commit-
tee.

The bill was described in full in the
Times early in the week. It provides for
a station to cost not less than \$4,000,000,
to be located on the north side of Mas-
sachusetts Avenue, and accurately defines
the character of the terminal facilities to
be allowed the railways, and the character
of the street crossings along their lines.

The report covers the case thoroughly
and states that the height at which the
union station shall stand above the pre-
sent grade of Massachusetts Avenue has
been computed to be that at which there
will be the smallest amount of damage
to property. It is said that the location
of the station will greatly increase prop-
erty values "in what has long been prac-
tically dead territory."

An untechnical description of the pro-
posed station building is given, and it is
stated that it will be the finest railway
station in the world.

ARCHITECT COMES TO URGE HIS PLANS

Expected to Advocate Lafayette
Square Building.

Absence of Quorum Postponed Session
of Senate Committee—May Give
His Views Tomorrow.

Architect G. B. Post, of New York, the
man who planned the Executive, State and
Justice building which has been under dis-
cussion recently, was in the city today
and had a conference with Senator Fair-
banks, chairman of the Senate Committee
on Public Buildings and Grounds.

Mr. Post came over from New York to
appear before the Public Buildings and
Grounds Committee in advocacy of the
proposed building, but no quorum was
present. It is possible that he may ap-
pear tomorrow.

The idea of an Executive, State and
Justice building has not been given en-
tirely by the committee, and if a bill is
not reported for it there is an excellent
chance that a substitute bill for a State
and Justice building will be framed.

TOWLES NOTE CASES.

Court of Appeals Reverses Decision of the
Lower Court.

In the suit of John O'Brien, appellant,
against Charles C. Bryan, Zenas C. Rob-
bins and Henry O. Towles to recover \$1-
600 alleged to be due on a promissory
note, the Court of Appeals today reversed
the judgment of the lower court and re-
manded the case for a new trial.

The note in question was one of those
alleged to be the use of a check. He was
tried on a charge of forgery and convicted.
When the matter came to trial in the
lower court the presiding justice instructed
the jury to return a verdict for the de-
fendants, except Henry O. Towles. The
jury, after hearing the evidence, returned
a verdict in favor of Henry O. Towles.

The opinion of the Court of Appeals was
announced by Mr. Justice Shepard, who
says that the lower court erred in not
submitting the question of execution and
of the alteration after execution to the
jury with an appropriate charge on the
burden of proof throughout.

In the case of the National Capital
Bank of Washington against the same
parties to recover on a note for \$500 the
decision of the court is similar.

A SPECIMEN OF OLEO SUBMITTED

Mr. Frye Orders It Laid On
the Table.

SPEECHES FOR AND AGAINST

Senators Express Widely Divergent
Views on Value of the Legislation
Under Discussion—Mr. Foraker's Po-
sition Stated.

Among the petitions presented in the
Senate today during the morning hour
was one in reference to the oleomargarine
bill, which Mr. Kean (Rep., N. J.) sent
up "together with a specimen of
oleomargarine." The presiding officer,
Mr. Frye (Rep., Me.) remarked, faceti-
ously:

"The oleomargarine will be received and
laid on the table. The petition will be
received and appropriately referred."
[Laughter.]

One hundred and eighty-two petitions on
the same subject were reported from the
Committee on Agriculture and were laid
on the table.

The oleomargarine bill was then taken
up and Mr. Rawlins (Dem., Utah) ad-
dressed the Senate in opposition to it.
He declared that the bill, instead of ac-
complishing the suppression of fraud, was
itself a fraud; because under the pretense
of being a tax law, it was in reality a dis-
criminating law, tending to destroy one
industry in order to build up another,
and was an utter revolutionary perversion
of the power conferred upon Congress.

Mr. Teller (Sil. Rep., Col.) said that
he would not discuss the constitutionality
of the bill, because he had no doubt that
the courts would hold that the tax on
oleomargarine was legally and properly
paid. He was opposed to the bill, how-
ever, because it was a bill to destroy an
industry producing an article that was not
deleterious, unwholesome, or pernicious.

The effect of the bill would be to add
the cost of 10 cents a pound to a per-
fectly healthful and useful article of food,
and the men who found themselves unable
to buy high priced butter would find the
price of butter go up still higher. He
therefore intended to vote against the bill.

Mr. Foraker (Rep., Ohio) confessed to
having had his prejudices against oleo-
margarine largely removed by the debate
on the bill. He thought, however, that
the bill was defective in two particulars,
and he had given notice of amendments
which he thought would improve the bill.
These amendments he proceeded to ex-
plain. One of them was to strike out the
clause which would allow the surveillance
of a family's table whether colored oleo-
margarine was used there and supplied
to paying guests. His other amendment
was to strike out the word "ingredient"

in connection with coloring matter, and
to insert in lieu of it the words "artificial
coloration."

With these changes he said he would
vote for the bill.

Mr. Penrose (Rep., Pa.) made a short
statement as to the reasons why he should
vote for the bill.

Mr. Carmack (Dem., Tenn.) declared
himself opposed to the bill as a vicious
piece of legislation, and as being really
what oleomargarine was alleged to be—a
penal statute colored in imitation of a
revenue law. He could not conscientiously
vote for any such legislation.

Mr. Spooner (Rep., Wis.) advocated the
bill.

MR. CORTELYOU MAY JOIN THE CABINET

Talked of as the Probable Secretary of
The New Department.

Mr. Roosevelt B. Cortelyou, secretary to
President Roosevelt, is being talked of as
the probable appointee to the position of
Secretary of the proposed Department of
Commerce and Industry.

No confirmation of the report that the
President has fixed on Mr. Cortelyou for
this place is obtainable, but it is a fact
everywhere conceded that he is eminently
qualified for the position.

At the opening of the Roosevelt Admin-
istration there was considerable talk of
Mr. Cortelyou's retiring from the position
of secretary to the President. A number
of flattering business offers have been
made him.

While Mr. Cortelyou's fitness for the
position of Secretary of the Department
of Commerce is recognized, it is hardly
probable that President Roosevelt would
definitely decide upon anyone for the
place before Congress establishes the
department.

FLAMES DESTROY A HOTEL IN ST. LOUIS

All Occupants of Burning
Empire Rescued.

Firemen Seriously Hurt While Saving a
Young Woman From the Fire.

Panic During Conflagration.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 3.—The Empire
Hotel, at the corner of Fifteenth and Pine
streets, was gutted by fire at 2:30 o'clock
this morning.

Nearly all of the rooms were occupied,
and the forty persons in the building,
nearly all had thrilling and narrow es-
capes.

The firemen ran ladders to each of the
four stories, and firemen and police re-
scued the panic-stricken occupants, sev-
eral women who had fainted being car-
ried down to safety.

Fireman Frank Henderson was seri-
ously hurt by glass while he was break-
ing through a third floor window to rescue
Miss Clementine Stone.

He carried the young woman to
street. He was then removed to
Hospital, where his condition

ADVERSE ACTION ON CROZIER PROMOTION

Christmas Officially
Discredited by Denmark

COPENHAGEN, April 3.—
It was officially announced to-
day that the Danish Ministry
has had no dealings with Cap-
tain Christmas.

The Premier, though Christ-
mas called, refused to see him
or to receive reports of his un-
authorized negotiations for the
sale of the Danish West In-
dies.

MRS. HAINES ACQUITTED OF DAUGHTER'S DEATH

Jury's Verdict Received With-
out Any Demonstration.

Judge, in His Charge, Declared All Evi-
dence as to Poisoning Should Be
Ruled Out.

MT. HOLLY, N. J., April 3.—Mrs. Mabel
Haines, charged with the murder of her
three-year-old stepdaughter, Gwendolin,
was this morning declared not guilty of
having caused the child's death.

There was absolutely no demonstration
in the court room at the verdict.

Mrs. Haines smiled.

She was warmly congratulated by her
husband and mother.

In his charge to the jury, Judge Garri-
son entirely eliminated the arsenic pec-
cator, and instructed the jury not to con-
sider any of the evidence given as to the
arsenic. Nothing has been proved, argued
the judge, to show that death was caused
by arsenic.

In opening his charge Judge Garrison,
by request of counsel for the defendant,
instructed the jury on the following
points of law:

First—That the State must satisfy the jury
that death did not result from natural
causes.

Second—That the State must satisfy you that
there was an intention to take the life
of Gwendolin.

Third—That before any blows were in-
flicted there had been a design upon the
child's life.

Fourth—That the defendant is entitled
to every reasonable doubt.

Fifth—That if the jury is not satisfied
with the testimony and there are doubts,
it is their duty to give the benefit of their
doubts to the defendant.

Sixth—That the law presumes that no
man person will commit murder without
a motive. Upon the first five points Judge
Garrison charged the jury, but upon the
last he declined to make any comment.

OBJECTION TO PROVISION FOR AN INCREASE IN THE CAPITAL.

WILL FAVORABLY REPORT

Mr. Sims and Others of the House Dis-
trict Committee to File a Minority Re-
port—Annual Leaves for the Crossing
Policemen Given Approval.

The House District Committee this
morning agreed to a favorable report on
the bill introduced by Representative
Pearce, authorizing the Washington Gas
Light Company to purchase the Geo-
orgetown Gas Light Company and to in-
crease its capital stock. An important fea-
ture of the measure is that providing that
after the purchase is consummated the
charge for gas shall be the same in
Georgetown as at present in Washington.

The present rate of the Georgetown Com-
pany is \$1.25, and in consequence the bill
means considerable to householders west
of Rock Creek.

To Increase Capital to \$13,500,000.
Another important feature is that which
enables the Washington Company to in-
crease its capital from \$2,000,000 to what
will probably be \$13,500,000, which will
include the \$600,000 capital stock of the
Georgetown Company. The present par
value of the company's stock is \$20 a
share, and it has 1,200 shares outstand-
ing among about 800 persons, chiefly resi-
dents of Washington. The statement was
made in the committee this morning that
the property of the company, including
franchises, mains, etc., is worth \$11,500,-
000 today, and could be sold for that
amount. The company, of course, does
not wish to sell, but to increase the par
value of the shares from \$20 to \$180.

Wording of the Provision.

The provision in the bill authorizing
the recapitalization of the Washington
Company is as follows:

"And provided further, That the total
amount of stock and necessary scrip
to be issued may equal in par value but
shall not exceed in par value the net
value of all the stock surrendered and
sold, as hereinafter provided, such
total value to be determined by
period of three
months.

may be issued under and by virtue of this
act shall not exceed the total number of
shares of said companies outstanding un-
der existing law."

There was considerable discussion in
the committee this morning over these
two provisions of the measure. Mr.
Sims strongly opposed them as did Mr.
Stewart and Mr. Meyer.

Mr. Sims said this was a "killing" pro-
vision intended to advance the stock to
\$180 a share, and thus fix the capitaliza-
tion at \$11,500,000, which would effectively
prevent the citizens of Washington from
getting gas at less than \$1. He said that
the moment a proposition was made to
reduce gas to 75 or 80 cents, where it
ought to be, the company would come
in and show that it was not paying more
than 35 or 40 per cent on its capital
stock, and—

This—

the—

the—

the—

Senate Committee Disap-
proves Recent Nom-
ination.

DISAGREES WITH MR. ROOT'S VIEW

Incumbent Must Hold Lieu-
tenant Colonel's Rank.

NOT SPECIFIED IN THE LAW

Decision Also Affected by Wire-Wound
Gun Company's Charge of Natural Bias
Because of Incumbent's Interest in
Similar Patents.

The Senate Committee on Military Af-
fairs today took adverse action on the
nomination of Capt. William Crozier to be
Chief of Ordnance of the Army with the
rank of brigadier general.

The nomination was sent to the Senate
at the beginning of the session last De-
cember, but no action was taken until
today. The ground for the rejection of
Crozier's name is not due to his unfitness,
for he is recognized as one of the fore-
most artillery officers of the army, but to
a difference of opinion between the com-
mittee and Secretary Root as to the con-
struction of that section of the army re-
organization act which authorizes the se-
lection of officers for the heads of the
bureaus in the War Department.

The law provides that the chiefs of
other bureaus should not be below the
grade of lieutenant colonel, and the com-
mittee contend this rule was meant to
apply also to the Ordnance Bureau. It
did not so specify, and Secretary Root,
taking the ground that his choice was not
limited to officers down to that grade, se-
lected Crozier from the lower rank of
captain. While the ability of Crozier was
acknowledged, there was considerable op-
position to his promotion in the Artillery
Corps because it would jump him over
the heads of so many of his senior officers.

Another factor in the fight against his
confirmation and which undoubtedly in-
fluenced the committee in its action was
the charge made by the Brown Segmental
Wire-Wound Gun Company that Crozier,
who was a member of the artillery board
which conducted the official tests of the
company's guns, and upon which an un-
favorable report was made, was himself
the inventor and promoter of another
wire-wound gun.

By reason of that fact and his own-
ership of patents, Crozier, they contended,
was not eligible to act as the head of the
ordnance department to pass upon the
ordnance patents which would come be-
fore that bureau.

GAS COMPANY MEASURE AROUSSES DISCUSSION

Bill for Purchase
Receives Criticism

The House District Commit-
tee voted to report favorably the
bill authorizing the Wash-
ington Gas Company to pur-
chase the Georgetown Gas
Company, and provides for an
increase in capitalization from
\$2,000,000 to \$13,500,000. This
feature was criticised and
there will be a minority report.

Committee holds that the
omission of specific provision
relating to office in question
does not necessarily put it in
a special class.

may be issued under and by virtue of this
act shall not exceed the total number of
shares of said companies outstanding un-
der existing law."

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This—

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PROMINENT MEN HEARD IN CHRISTMAS ENQUIRY

Mr. Abner McKinley De-
nies All Connection
With the Dane.

MR. FISCHER-HANSEN'S STORY